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**Amendments to the Claims**

1. (Cancelled)
2. (Currently Amended) A process according to Claim 5 wherein the exposed purine base is found within ~~comprises~~ a structural form selected from the group consisting of single stranded region of nucleic acid, hairpins, loops and nucleic acid having modifications to the phosphate backbone.
3. (Currently Amended) A process according to Claim 5 wherein the technique comprises metal affinity.
4. (Currently Amended) A process according to Claim 5 wherein the captured nucleic acid ~~product~~ comprises single-strandedness.
5. (Currently Amended) A scalable process for the highly selective, high yield separation of a desired recombinant polymerase from undesired nucleic acid, comprising:
  - exposing purine bases present within either the desired nucleic acid product or undesired nucleic acid by a process selected from the group consisting of selective thermal denaturation and renaturation, alkaline denaturation, and restriction enzyme digestion yielding single-stranded overhangs;
  - capture of the desired recombinant polymerase ~~nucleic acid product or undesired nucleic acid~~ by a technique selective for ~~the exposed purine bases~~ single-strandness; and
  - separation of the desired recombinant polymerase ~~product~~ from the undesired nucleic acid; ~~wherein the desired product comprises recombinant~~ polymerase.

6. (Currently Amended) A process according to Claim 5 wherein the process comprises exposed purine bases of single stranded undesired (or desired) nucleic acids facilitate a separation step selected from the group consisting of: immobilized metal affinity chromatography (IMAC).

7. (Currently Amended) A process according to Claim 5 comprising introducing single strandedness in the undesired nucleic acid as an exposed purine base.

8. (Previously Presented ) A process according to Claim 5 comprising a thermally based process in which a nucleic acid contaminant is rapidly cooled to below 65°C and is captured by an affinity method.

9. [ Previously Presented] A process according to Claim 5 performed after an alkali based process in which genomic DNA or other nucleic acid contaminant is rapidly neutralized and is captured by an affinity method.  
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10. (Cancelled)

11. (Currently Amended) A process according to Claim 5 wherein undesired ~~other~~ plasmid isoforms selected from the group consisting of open circular ("nicked") and linear plasmid isoforms are selectively removed ~~from the desired supercoiled plasmid DNA product.~~

12. (Currently Amended) A process according to Claim 9 wherein undesired plasmid isoforms selected from the group consisting of open circular and

linear plasmid isoforms are selectively removed from supercoiled plasmid DNA product.

13. [Cancelled]

14. (Previously Presented) A process according to Claim 5 in which the separation is achieved by adsorption on chelated metal.

15. (Previously Presented) A process according to Claim 5 in which the separation is achieved using multi-channel plates.

16. (Previously Presented) A process according to Claim 5 wherein the desired product comprises Taq polymerase.

17. (Previously Presented) A process according to Claim 5 in which the separation is achieved using magnetic particles.

18. (Previously Presented) A process according to Claim 5 in which the separation of multiple samples is achieved in parallel fashion.

19. (Previously Presented) A process according to Claim 5 in which the captured nucleic acid comprises a moiety selected from BACs, PACs and YACs.

20. (Previously Presented) A process according to Claim 5 in which the captured nucleic acid comprises a plasmid.

21. (Previously Presented) A process according to Claim 5 in which the captured nucleic acid comprises genomic DNA.

22. (Previously Presented ) A process according to Claim 5 in which the captured nucleic acid comprises RNA.

23. ( Previously Presented) A process according to Claim 5 in which the capture technique comprises HIC.

24. (Previously Presented ) A process according to Claim 5 in which the capture technique comprises RPC.

25. Cancelled